WG Indictments of 3/1/74 - reporting, p.r., etc. 3/4/74

Earlier memos note the selection of Friday for handing down and the predictable consequences, maximum downplay, minimum follow-up, elimination of second-day stories, etc.

Today's WxPost further illustrates the accuracy of the predictable. No single story, no single editorial comment. Its editorials, on other subjects, could have been written at any time, or no Sunday editorialOstaff work necessary.

Two of the columnists touch on the general subject, neither on the indictments or their adequacy or inadequacy. Syndicated Evans-Novak have a piece on the GOP campaign to get Jenner and Raspberry a general piece on language in the case.

There is not even a staff story on any aspect of the subject. This is exceptional because the Post has eschewed non-staff stories as it has reporting the work of other papers, pretending that it woned the story. Instead it has a UPI story in Ford's propaganda that concludes with two grafs on Byrd's yesterday's appearance on Meet the Press.

With a story still unprecedented after almost two years of WG, with the indictments themselves unprecedented and only the beginning of indictments, and even more with the character of the indictments, this is an exceptional journalistic abdication for a paper eith the pretensions of the Post.

But then it has already won its Pulitzer. HW